

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 06242 100915Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 AID-05 /040 W

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R 100720Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2916

INFO AMCONGEN CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJECT: SOME OPTIMISM ON FARAKKA; MISCREANTS BACK ON FRONT PAGE

REF: DACCA 6214

1. AFTER SEEING OFF THE INDIAN DELEGATION AT THE DACCA AIRPORT, ADMIRAL KHAN MET WITH REPORTERS AND IN A BRIEF STATEMENT EXPRESSED CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM FOR FUTURE PROGRESS DURING THE FARAKKA TALKS. HE SAID THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A BREAKTHROUGH BECAUSE OF "INDIA'S REALIZATION OF THE PROBLEMS FACING BANGLADESH DUE TO THE SHORTAGE OF WATER." HE STRESSED THAT A SHORT-TERM AGREEMENT FOR THE DRY SEASON WAS IMPORTANT.
2. HIS REMARKS TO THE PRESS WERE NOT PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED, HOWEVER, AND ONLY ONE NEWSPAPER MADE AN EDITORIAL COMMENT. DAINIK BANGLA (DAILY BENGALI), A GOVERNMENT-OWNED PAPER, MERELY REPEATED THE LONG HISTORY OF THE TALKS AND CONCLUDED WITH THE HOPE THAT BOTH SIDES WILL NOW BE ABLE TO REACH ACCOMMODATION.
3. THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS WILL NOT LIKELY RESUME SOON AS ADMIRAL KHAN DEPARTED FOR LONDON TO BE PRESENT FOR TRANSFER OF FRIGATE TO BBANGLADESH NAVY (SEPTTEL).

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PAGE 02 DACCA 06242 100915Z

4. AFTER A FEW DAYS ABSENCE FROM THE PRESS, REPORTS OF "MISCREANT" ACTIVITY IN MYMENSINGH DISTRICT REAPPEARED DECEMBER 10.

5. COMMENT. WE SUSPECT THAT IF OPTIMISM REALLY EXISTS IN BDG IT IS RESULT OF BANGLADESHIS MOVING CLOSER TO THE INDIAN POSITION OF 50-50 SPLIT AT HARDINGE BRIDGE. SOME OF OUR CONTACTS HAVE SAID, IN EFFECT, THIS SOLUTION IS NOT PERFECT BUT IT ISN'T TOO BAD. NONETHELESS INDIANS SEEM NOT YET TO HAVE REALIZED THAT TO ZIA AND KHAN THE "MISCREANT" PROBLEM IS A GREATER THREAT THAN FARAKKA AND THAT IMPROVEMENT IN BORDER POLICING BY GOI WOULD ASSIST GREATLY IN FARAKKA RESOLUTION.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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